

**J.O. COMBS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44**  
**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016**

A public meeting of the J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 Governing Board convened on Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room at the J.O. Combs Middle School. Members of the Governing Board present were Shelly Hargis, President; Bob D'Elena, Clerk; Kathy Bourgeois, Member (absent); Dr. Gary Kemp, Member; and Pat Pinckard, Member. Administrators, Directors, and Coordinators present were Tammy Stimatze, Angie Beauchene, Sue Kruse, Bradley Shepstead, Brenda Mayberry, Jane Rupard, Karla Slovitsky, Jack Wallbrecht, Santa Dunker, and Kelly Guerra; Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Gayle Blanchard, Superintendent, and MaryLou Martinez, Administrative Assistant.

**Call to Order** – Governing Board President Ms. Shelly Hargis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda** – Dr. Kemp made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D'Elena, and the motion carried 4-0.

**Welcoming of Guests**

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Ms. Hargis invited Simonton Elementary student Kenli Clare to help lead the pledge.

**Superintendent Report** – Dr. Blanchard shared a few items from the Superintendent's Update:

- District enrollment is 4,498 students which includes community Pre-K through Grade 12.
- Tryouts for the fourth quarter sports programs of boys' basketball and girls' soccer will take place after spring break at J.O. Combs Middle School. Forms are available online and in the front office. Please contact Ms. Laura Ridge, Athletic Director, at 480-882-3519 if you have any questions.
- Harmon Elementary kicked off its Jump Rope for Heart event February 1 and continued throughout the month. The American Heart Association received over \$1,800 in donations from the Harmon Hawk community! Thank you to everyone who participated during this special fundraising campaign.
- Combs Traditional Academy is hosting Read Across America week during the week of February 29th. Guest readers will read a favorite Dr. Seuss book with students. Additionally, Student Council is sponsoring a Spirit Week with Dr. Seuss related themes daily. Finally, the drama students from Combs High School will perform a Readers Theater for students in grades K-2 on Dr. Seuss' birthday, March 2nd.
- At Ellsworth Elementary, students are learning many new technology skills. Kindergarten students continue to use Google Classroom and are learning about navigating the web, working with tabs, back arrows, and refreshing a page. In addition, second grade students began their ocean research project and are beginning to create a presentation using Google Slides. Students in grades 3-6 are using Chrome Books to create poems, and as a follow up to the Career Fair are working on a Google Slides presentation featuring careers.
- Simonton Elementary alumni, Caleb Potter, is back to support Simonton's leadership efforts. As part of Caleb's approved Eagle Scout project, he will begin constructing a courtyard beautification project that highlights Simonton's new mission statement: Learn, Empower, Achieve, and Dream (LEAD). Each word will be prominently displayed on the courtyard light poles and will make a great first impression for visitors and families alike.
- During Kindergarten Roundup at Ranch Elementary, kindergartners participated in several classroom activities. The students listened to a story, *Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come!* and participated in an art project that work fine motor skills. While the students were busy in the classroom, parents listened to a presentation about Ranch Elementary, curriculum, and life as a Kindergartner.
- Congratulations to Combs High School Athletes!
  - Boys' Soccer - Oscar Barales, Josh Brinkman and Fernando Leal on their selection to 1st team all section and Sam Casillas and Alonzo Loza for their 2nd team all section selection.
  - Girls' Basketball entered the state playoffs for the first time in school history this year. They defeated Hopi in the first round but eventually lost to Gilbert Christian in the Sweet 16. Congratulations to Coach Webster, Coach Thompson and all the players for a great season.

**Volunteer Recognition** – Ms. Sue Kruse, Ranch Elementary Principal, recognized parent volunteer Ms. Sheena McCowin saying she appreciates everything she does and thanked her for “planting the seeds of volunteering.”

**Staff Recognition** – Ms. Kruse recognized staff members Mr. Keith Pennington and Ms. Laurie McRae. Mr. Pennington is a music and orchestra teacher and Ms. McRae is a Social Worker at Ranch Elementary. Ms. Kruse says Mr. Pennington has an excellent rapport with students, he works towards building the love of music for everyone and that he even formed an afterschool music club. Ms. Kruse thanked him for “planting the seeds of music.”

Ms. Kruse says Ms. McRae is absolutely amazing and that she is part of the triage team, has organized character counts activities, works with students in small social groups, and promotes spirit at Ranch Elementary. In honor of National Social Worker Appreciation month, Ms. Kruse thanked Ms. McRae for “planting the seeds of character.”

**Focus on Students/Programs** – Ms. McRae highlighted the Power of One assembly that was made possible by a grant provided through the Arizona Cardinals foundation. She had applied for the grant that allowed Ranch Elementary to bring the Power of One assembly to the school. The assembly is a series of anti-bullying themed skits presented by actors and is performed for elementary schools. Also, Ms. McRae shared that students took part in the “great kindness challenge,” which was designed much like a football game. To score touchdowns on a football field, students recorded each random act of kindness that took place throughout the day. The class with the most touchdowns earned a pizza party. Students participated in several other activities designed to focus on positive behaviors and relationships.

Two sixth grade students talked about their experience as they participated in the kindness challenge. The students said it made a difference in their class and mentioned how students would share their pencils and help each other with math problems.

Under the direction of Mr. Pennington, the second grade students sang “Kind Hearted Hand.”

**Student of the Month** – Ms. Sharon Lind, Chief Executive Officer from Banner Ironwood Medical Center was present to assist with the Student of the Month recognition. Ms. Lind shared a few highlights and updates as it relates to Banner Ironwood. She remarked that flu season is here in the valley. Ms. Lind also shared that BIMC experienced a record number of deliveries in the month of December and January and commented about the wonderful group of OBGYNs, midwives and nurses and the addition of a cardiologist, Dr. Bell.

The J.O. Combs District continues to partner with Banner Ironwood Medical Center recognizing one student every month from each of the schools where students are recognized for the various pillars of character, which include Responsibility, Trustworthiness, Citizenship, Caring, Respect, and Fairness. Dr. Patty Rogers, Assistant Superintendent read a brief paragraph about each student and presented certificates to all recipients and they then had a photo taken with the representative from Banner Ironwood, the Governing Board, and Superintendent Blanchard.

Dr. Rogers recognized staff members in the audience and thanked them for attending.

**Citizen’s Comments** – None

The Governing Board invites the viewpoints of citizens throughout the District under guidelines as presented in Policy BEDH. (Policy BEDH—Public Participation at Board Meetings is posted in the Governing Board Room or available at the District Office.) State statutes prohibit the Governing Board from discussing an item that is not on the agenda, but they do listen to compliments / concerns and request that staff follow up on any questions.

**Approval of Consent Agenda Action Items** – Ms. Pinckard made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. D’Elena and the motion carried 4-0.

- A. Approval of Minutes
  - i. Regular Meeting February 10, 2016
- B. Business and Finance
  - i. Monthly Financial Report February 2016

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|-------|--|---|---------------|---|------|---------------|
| ii.   | Student Activities Financial Statement       |   |               |   |      | February 2016 |
| iii.  | Expense Voucher                              |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | #  | 7038  | \$ 172,181.65 | # | 7040 | \$ 106,032.13 |
|       | #  | 7039  | \$ 2,313.55   | # | 7041 | \$ 87,669.86  |
| iv.   | Payroll Voucher                              |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | #  | 36  | \$ 112.73     | # | 39   | \$ 604,291.59 |
|       | #  | 37  | \$ 598,697.16 | # | 40   | \$ 328,092.18 |
|       | #  | 38  | \$ 318,050.12 |   |      |               |
| v.    | Intergovernmental Agreements                 |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | Intergovernmental Agreement Carl Perkins Program FY 2015-2016   |               |   |      |               |
|       | b.   | Intergovernmental Agreement for Provision of Services by the Pinal County Recorder and Elections Department   |               |   |      |               |
| vi.   | Bid Request(s)                               |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | None  |               |   |      |               |
| vii.  | Bid Approval(s)                              |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | None  |               |   |      |               |
| viii. | Purchase(s)                                  |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | None  |               |   |      |               |
| ix.   | Grants, Gifts, and Donations                 |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | Donation of 30 Waterman Ukulele instruments to Ranch Elementary from Kala Brand Music Company, valued at \$1,709.70   |               |   |      |               |
| x.    | Overnight and/or Out-of-State Travel Request |   |               |   |      |               |
|       | a.   | Arizona FCCLA State Leadership Conference, Tucson, AZ, March 28-30, 2016, Combs High School FCCLA, Grades 9-12  |               |   |      |               |
|       | b.   | Arizona All-Regional and the All-State Honor Festival Performance at Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ, April 21-23, 2016, Combs High School Orchestra/Band, Grades 9-12 |               |   |      |               |
|       | c.   | Arizona High School Coaches Camp, Show Low, AZ, July 17-22, 2016, Combs High School Football, Grades 9-12   |               |   |      |               |
- C. Personnel  
(A.R.S. §38-431.03 (A)(1) the Governing Board may go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personnel matters.)
- i. Job Descriptions
    - a. None
  - ii. Administrative Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - iii. Certificated Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - iv. Support Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination
  - v. Substitute Staff: Employment, Transfer, Leave of Absence, Resignation, Termination

**Instructional Material Review for Medical Professions 2 - Combs High School** – Ms. Santa Dunker, Coordinator of Curriculum and Instruction, explained the reason for the review of the Medical Professions 2 textbook. Ms. Dunker noted that due to certification requirements through the Arizona Board of Nursing the District is required to use updated textbooks for the Medical Professions courses. Both the Career and Technical Education and Curriculum and Instruction departments have reviewed the textbook. The textbook will be on display at the District for the required 60-day review process.

Mr. D'Elena asked how many copies of the textbook the District is purchasing. Ms. Dunker stated that we identified a quantity of 50 for purchase; however, we will look at enrollment numbers.

**Policy First Read** – Dr. Blanchard presented the policies for first read pointing out that the changes are not significant or substantial. She explained that many policy changes are for clarification or the addition of language. A summary of some of the changes are:

- wording that clearly states the practice of a 24 hour notice of executive session
- staff conduct clearly states the use of District resources to influence the outcome of an election are prohibited
- several policies remove language as it relates to AIMS graduation requirements, and
- tuition admission of nonresident students is discretionary not mandatory

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|---------|---|
| BEC     | Executive Sessions/Open Meetings                                  |
| BEDA    | Notification of Board Meetings                                    |
| BEDH    | Public Participation at Board Meetings                            |
| GBEB-R  | Staff Conduct   |
| GCCC-ED | Professional/Support Staff Leaves of Absence Without Pay          |
| GCQF    | Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff Member |
| IKE     | Promotion and Retention of Students                               |
| IKF     | Graduation Requirements   |
| IKF-RB  | Graduation Requirements, regulation                               |
| IKF-EA  | Graduation Requirements, exhibit                                  |
| IKF-EB  | Graduation Requirements, exhibit                                  |
| JFAB    | Tuition/Admission of Nonresident Students                         |
| JK      | Student Discipline  |
| JK-RB   | Student Discipline, regulation                                    |
| KDB-R   | Public's Right to Know/Freedom of Information                     |

Dr. Blanchard noted that new text is underlined and deleted text has a strikethrough. No motion is required at this time and policies will be on the April board agenda for a second read.

Mr. D'Elena inquired if there is anything in the policies presented that that would cause us to do business any differently. Dr. Blanchard answered no.

**Adjournment** – Ms. Hargis made a motion to adjourn at 6:41 p.m., seconded by Mr. D'Elena and the motion carried 4-0.

One or more Governing Board members will / may participate by telephonic or video communications. The Governing Board reserves the right to change the order of items on the agenda, unless a specific time is listed on the agenda.

The Governing Board reserves the right to move into executive session for legal advice with its attorneys, in person or by telephone, for any item listed on the agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A)(3).

J.O. Combs Unified School District #44 endeavors to make all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Please call (480) 987-5300 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting to request an accommodation to attend or participate in the public meeting.

Governing Board Members

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Shelly Hargis, President

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Bob D'Elena, Clerk

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Kathy Bourgeois, Member

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Gary F. Kemp, Ed.D., Member

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Patricia J. Pinckard, Member

Respectfully Submitted by:  
MaryLou Martinez  
Administrative Assistant  
Superintendent / Governing Board  
March 2, 2016